

August 12, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice

Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03J-
(rel. Feb. 7, 2003)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 (b) of the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, enclosed for filing is a written *ex parte* presentation filed on behalf of NTCA and OPASTCO, dated Tuesday, August 12, 2003, to Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy concerning the above-captioned proceeding. A white paper entitled "Universal Service and the Myth of the Level Playing Field" by Dale Lehman, Ph.D. is attached.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please communicate with the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry

Attachment: Letter dated August 12, 2003
 to Commissioner Abernathy
 with attachment

cc: Commissioner Abernathy
 Federal-State Joint Board Members and Staff